

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 01228 270541Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W

-----272048Z 073292 /64

R 270340Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3936

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FOR OIM/SILLOWAY

E O 11652 N A

TAGS BEXP, AS

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR COMMERCE ASSISTANCE TO EXPEDITE SHIPMENT OF  
220,000 DOLLAR SHIPMENT OF TWIN SCREW FEEDING  
EQUIPMENT FOR MELBOURNE'S WATER FLUORIDATION PROGRAM

1. POST ECONOFF WAS VISITED MAY 25 BY MR RUSS MUIR, CHIEF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER OF MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS (MMBW), WITH REQUEST FOR CONGEN ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING LONG-OVERDUE SHIPMENT OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF MELBOURNE'S ENTIRE WATER FLUORIDATION PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO MUIR, PROGRAM IS OPPOSED BY SOME PERSONS IN COMMUNITY BUT SUPPORTED BY MOST; DELAY IN CARRYING IT OUT IS EMBARRASSING TO MMBW AND HEALTH AUTHORITIES.

2. MMBW GAVE CONTRACT TO LOCAL ENGINEERING AND SUPPLY COMPANY L SHANK & CO (VIC) PTY LTD, DIVISION OF A NEW SOUTH WALES COMPANY, TO SUPPLY LIME-FEEDING EQUIPMENT. (FLUORIDE MAKES WATER SLIGHTLY ACIDIC, WHICH IS CORRECTED BY ADDING LIME TO WATER.) TROUBLES WERE EXPERIENCED WITH EQUIPMENT PROVIDED WHICH WAS IMPORTED FROM K-TRON CORPORATION, 20 WARRICK AVENUE, GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY 08028/TELEPHONE: (609) 881-6500/TELEX: 83-1675. SHANK AGREED TO TAKE BACK THE 16 GRAVIMETRIC FEEDING

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UNITS AND 10 OF THE 16 CONTROL UNITS. THESE ITEMS WERE SHIPPED BACK TO K-TRON; ADDITIONAL PAYMENT WAS MADE BY MMBW TO REPLACE THE FEEDING UNITS WITH 16 TWIN SCREW FEEDERS, MODEL TO 35; TO MODIFY THE 10 CONTROL UNITS; AND TO SHIP ALL EQUIPMENT TO MELBOURNE BY AIRFREIGHT. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE IN LATE JANUARY 1977 BUT TO DATE NEITHER MMBW NOR SHANK HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT FROM

K-TRON WHEN EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHIPPED. COMPANY HAS NOT RPT NOT ANSWERED INQUIRIES INCLUDING TELEX SENT MAY 20 TO EDWARD MELINE, DIRECTOR AND VICE PRESIDENT. MUIR STATED ORDER IS WORTH APPROX 220,000 DOLLARS US.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST SILLOWAY TELEPHONE MELINE AND URGE HIM TO RESPOND TO SHANK/MMBW INQUIRIES WITH POSITIVE ASSURANCE OF EARLIEST POSSIBLE SHIPMENT DATE. K-TRON'S DELAYING SHIPMENT IS PREVENTING MMBW FROM COMPLETION OF FLUORIDATION PROGRAM FOR APPROX 3 MILLION PEOPLE.

4. DECON UPON RECEIPT.  
BRAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009